Crews began paving South Mountain Pass on Thursday morning (July 30). Photo by Michael Tortor

South Mountain Pass Paving Foes Lose Court Bid to Halt Project

New road work commences; Town Board approves furnace restrictions

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Opponents of paving the western-most stretch of South Mountain Pass took their case to court this week but failed to obtain a temporary restraining order to stop the roadwork.

At a Town Board workshop Wednesday night (July 29), Philipstown Town Supervisor Richard Shea, named as a defendant in the case, along with the whole Town Board, announced the result of the judicial action.

Paving began less than 24 hours later.

However, the window for further litigation remains open and the town has until Sept. 4 to answer the allegations in the 19-page petition-cum-complaint brought by the plaintiffs, the Old Road Society and its allies, which went to the state’s Putnam Supreme Court civil division in Carmel, filing their bid to stop the paving by obtaining a temporary restraining order, in a state law Article 78 proceeding.

The court called for a hearing under Justice Victor G. Grossman that afternoon.

In the ensuing proceedings, “the judge refused to grant a temporary restraining order, which is a good thing for us,” Shea informed his Town Board colleagues and the public Wednesday night. “We obviously came to the conclusion that this is a good project and it’s going to be a benefit to the entire town.”

“We obviously came to the conclusion that this is a good project and it’s going to be a benefit to the entire town.”

Represented by David K. Gordon, a New Paltz-based lawyer, on Wednesday evening the Old Road Society and its allies went to the state’s Putnam Supreme Court civil division in Carmel, filing their bid to stop the paving by obtaining a temporary restraining order, in a state law Article 78 proceeding.

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“In the ensuing proceedings, the judge refused to grant a temporary restraining order, which is a good thing for us,” Shea informed his Town Board colleagues and the public Wednesday night. “We obviously came to the conclusion that this is a good project and it’s going to be a benefit to the entire town.”

He and other Town Board members extended thanks to Philipstown Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico, Holiday Inn’s Jen Daly, Haldane School Board president, and Superintendent Diana Bowers, among other changes, was decided against going forward with an administrative reorganization plan by Dr. Diana Bowers, the school district’s superintendent, after they had appeared to be supporting it.

The plan, which proposed creating a new position of assistant superintendent for current High School Principal Brian Alm, among other changes, was intended as part of an effort to implement the district’s new strategic plan and also retain the current administrative team by offering them a promotional opportunity, not an easy thing in a small district.

The idea met with significant opposition from several perspectives starting at a public hearing on July 21.

By Kevin E. Foley

Democratic candidate for the mayor of Beacon Ron Ray Photo courtesy of Ron Ray

Democrat Seeks Beacon Mayoralty

Ron Ray lays out his plans for change

By Brian PJ Cronin

Ron Ray has called the City of Beacon his home for 26 years. In those years he’s been witness to a lot of changes, and in his opinion, not all of them have been positive.

“I’ve seen a touch of gentrification,” he told The Paper. “When I walk down the street now I don’t see many people I know anymore, and I’ve lived here since 1989. It’s not as diverse as it used to be because of the rent. The rents are becoming unaffordable.”

Rising rents and property taxes pricing out longtime locals is becoming a familiar complaint on the streets of Beacon. But rather than simply complaint, Ray has decided to do something about it. He recently threw his hat into the ring for Beacon’s mayoral election in the fall. Ray is backed by the city’s Democratic Party and will be running against incumbent Mayor Randy Casale, an independent who

(To page 3)
I am a relatively indiscriminate eater and will try most anything at least once. This surely is the result of a Louisiana upbringing: by the time I was of voting age I had consumed (and I daresay thoroughly enjoyed) my fair share of oysters, crabs, shrimp and crawfish for sure, but had also traveled the more tangential Cajun foodways that led to plates of alligator, squirrel, rattlesnake and even armadillo. (Yes, Virginia, it tastes like pork.)

Further forays found meals of large grub worms (in Nigeria), insects (in Mexico) and a brief and previously acknowledged dalliance with a group of carnivorous NYC gastronouts alternately known as “the Offal Truth” or “the Organization.” (Barbequed Kosher-Zebecki sweetbreads in Jackson Heights were the highlight of that tour.)

One of my lifetime-favorite “cookbooks” is the late veterinary epidemiologist Calvin Schwabe’s masterpiece, Unmentioned Cuisine, a scholarly and fundamentally entertaining survey of global culinary taboos that also provides recipes for myriad species of beasts, and nearly all of their body parts and fluids. (Admittedly, there are many dishes in this particular tome even I wouldn’t venture, no matter how entertaining it is. I much prefer to stick closer to Ferguson Henderson’s The Whole Beast, an urtext for the nose-to-tail school of contemporary butchery and cooking.)

But mine is not a staunchly carnivorous pursuit—I will happily consume the wild and cultivated fruits, roots, shoots and leaves of the garden, field and forest. Anyone for wild burdock risotto? I’m all in! (Don’t start me talking about mushrooms!) For that, come to the mushroom walk I’m doing for the Beacon Institute at Denning’s Point on Aug. 8; visit bire.org/events. It’s chanterelle season, y’all!)

So while we are ostensibly to enjoy this dish as a simulacrum of foie gras—a rather ethically admirable and politically correct intention if you like to orthnax these things—what we actually have here is a simple pâté of French lentils, sautéed white mushrooms and walnuts.

Ethical politicking aside, such a dish could potentially veer into stereotypical hippie nut-loaf territory—if it weren’t for the herbs, lemon juice and especially the optional splash of cognac (an obvious and stereotypical Gallic nod to foie gras). (I do applaud the proto-hippie inclusion of soy sauce/Tamari over salt for its absolute umami qualities, which also reinforces Mark Bittman’s recent appreciation of soy sauce and butter as a gustatory match made in heaven that is greater than the sum of its parts. That said, for the staunch vegans in the crowd, for all it adds, I don’t think the absence of butter would drastically impact the overall taste.)

This preparation is also unbelievably quick and easy (basically a quick spin in the food processor) save for cooking the lentils—and even they are relatively fast and easy. (If you’re smart, you’ll make a double or even triple batch to keep in the freezer for quick, cold summer suppers, especially now that the summer tomatoes are here.)

And what we actually have here is a very tasty pâté—a wondrous thing in itself and not particularly faux anything. I have prepared this recipe for three separate groups of unsuspecting gourmands, challenging them to guess its makeup, and although some have called it, this is not the point: In all three instances the pot was, as they say, licked clean.

Serve it on crackers or a crusty bread; it works well with the traditional accompaniments of its nominal French analogue—cornichons, fruit pastes, onion or shallot marmalade. (It is pictured here with some of the last Small Good Things’ Sour Cherry Chutney.) It is an excellent addition and complement to a cheese or charcuterie plate, and I’m told that it goes well with big red wines, a nice rose or craft beers. Or have it with your kule-spinach-brewer’s yeast toast.

I just had some on a baguette with a couple of slices of heirloom tomato and fresh basil and would gladly do that again in a second.

Now if we only knew what to call it …
Haldane Board Withdraws Support for Supt’s Reorg Plan

(from page 1)

Superintendent

A metul Bowler joined the board in trying to put the best face on an awk-
ward situation after ‘a difficult few weeks.’ She emphasized the centrality of the five-year strategic plan for changes in curriculum and teaching approaches and that they were just at the beginning of that effort. ‘The whole purpose of any-
thing we do is to create an environment where kids can learn well ... if there was going to be resistance and dissension then we couldn’t go forward.’

Bowers acknowledged that decision making took place in a ‘democracy’ and that more work would be needed to figure out a more acceptable way to achieve her administrative goals. She praised her ad-
ministrators as well as the Haldane faculty and staff for always ‘giving 150 percent.’

She proposed to the board that she be-
gin a search for a director of pupil per-
soneel services and innovative education to replace Wilson. The public in attendance, mostly staff and activist parents, received the board’s course correction in silence and were not asked to comment before the meeting ended.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.
Mayor Merandy Explains Counsel Consultation

Calls PCNR article totally fabricated

By Michael Turton

On July 22, the Putnam County News and Record (PCNR) published a story asserting that Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy and Deputy Mayor Marie Early were conspiring to fire Building Inspector Bill Bujański and to remove Trustee Michael Bowman from the Village Board. The article came after confidential correspondence from Village Attorney John Furst to village trustees was leaked to the PCNR. The leaked memo summarized Furst’s comments on a number of legal issues that he had discussed with Merandy and Early soon after he had been appointed as legal counsel.

Contacted by The Paper, Merandy described the PCNR article as “laughable — and totally fabricated... there was no truth to it.”

Merandy said the issues discussed in the meeting with Furst included a possible merging of the Cold Spring Building Department with the Town of Philipstown Building Department. Similar discussions were held during Ralph Faulconer’s term as mayor but got nowhere. The mayor said the conversation with Furst was about the implications of such a merger — not an attempt to fire Bujański. He also said that Bowman’s residency was discussed, but not as part of an effort to remove him from office, rather to determine if the Village Board was at risk legally as a result of Bowman having moved to Nelsontown earlier this year. Bowman moved in order to care for his mother, who was ill.

At the Tuesday (July 28) meeting of the Village Board, trustees met in executive session prior to the regular meeting. During the public comment period, Doug Cunningham, editor of the PCNR, asked how the executive session was justified. Merandy deferred to Furst, who very succinctly indicated that the board has the right to speak to its attorney in private when seeking legal advice. No indication was given as to the topics discussed.

NYSERDA green light

Trustees authorized Merandy to sign a long-delayed agreement with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The contract details how a $62,625 NYSERDA grant will be used to update the Village Code. The grant, first announced in late 2013, was originally for $75,000; however, the amount was reduced when the Historic District Review Board secured the consultant in order to honor the Village Board at the time voted unanimously to award the work to Greenplan. A subsequent Village Board, however, voted to give the work to the consulting firm Barton & Logiduc. Greenplan responded by presenting the village with a bill for $87,601.75 for its work on the grant application.

After his election last March, Merandy indicated that he wants to turn back the clock and once again award the code update work to Greenplan — an announcement that prompted Code Update Committee Chair Jack Goldstein to resign. A contract has not yet been signed with either consulting firm.

The Code Update Committee has not met since May. One way or another, the Village Board will have to act soon in selecting the consultant in order to honor the contract with NYSERDA and to resume work on the code update in earnest. At Tuesday’s meeting, trustees voted to appoint Cold Spring resident and attorney Norah Hart to the Code Update Committee.

Fees, Butterfield, liability

Trustees approved fees suggested by the Historic District review Board (HDRB). Beginning in September, applicants to the HDRB will pay $10 for routine projects and $80 if a public hearing is required.

The village is shopping for liability insurance for lands below the village reservoirs, which are due to be repaired. The current policy expires at the end of the month, and a number of companies have declined to offer coverage due to delays in the start of the dam repairs. Trustee Fran Murphy said that the village is waiting for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to approve a connection to the Catskill Aqueduct, which will provide Cold Spring and Nelsontown with water during the dam project. She said that the village will be able to renew its general liability insurance and that the search for coverage on the downstream lands continues. “We would not be the only village without downstream coverage, but we’d prefer to have it,” she said.

Developer Paul Guillaro presented paperwork outlining bonding for the Butterfield redevelopment project, and Merandy will sign off on the documents after a final review by the village attorney. Bonding and a number of easements and covenants are the last legal documents remaining to be approved before construction gets underway.

Discussion regarding hiring a special building inspector for the Butterfield project was tabled. Merandy reported that two inspectors will be required, one for the buildings and one for the property, and that more information is needed regarding how the positions will be funded.

Village’s Facebook page

The Village of Cold Spring government now has a Facebook page, facebook.com/vc03016. Constructed by Bowman and launched earlier this week, the page is intended to “keep you informed about what your Board of Trustees and other village boards and committees are doing.” Trustee Fran Murphy is maintaining site content, which includes brief status reports on current projects as the Main Street project, residential parking permits and remediation of coal tar at the Cold Spring Boat Club. It also lists village committees in need of new members. The page provides a link through which residents can sign up to receive email blasts from the village clerk regarding village news, meetings, events and important announcements. The description indicates that the Facebook page is not intended for “back and forth communication” and that trustees will not respond to postings made on the site. Instead, residents are encouraged to communicate with the village via email, mail, phone or by visiting the Village Office.

Read what your neighbors are saying: Visit our Comments section online.

For more information on where to find things or what’s happening, visit: Community Directory Expanded Calendar Arts & Leisure all at www.philipstown.info
Democrat Seeks Beacon Mayoralty (from page 1)

is backed by the city's Republican Party.

Ray is no stranger to public service, having done stints as a Dutchess County legislator, as the City of Beacon housing commissioner and as a member of the Dutchess County Reapportionment Committee, not to mention time in the U.S. Army, the New York Army National Guard and 26 years as an officer with the New York State Department of Corrections. "I've always been a public servant and I like to serve the residents," said Ray. "I like working with people." And he said that the people of Beacon have already been giving him an earful as to what needs changing.

"Since Randy Casale has been in office, both as mayor and as a member of the City Council, taxes have gone up 25 percent," said Ray. "He may not feel that because he's not a homeowner in Beacon, but people like me feel it. And when I'm out knocking on doors, meeting people, they're upset about it."

Ray says he'll work to keep taxes low by consolidating city departments and taking a long, hard look at some of the new positions that have been created under Casale's tenure. "This mayor has appointed a fire chief, a police captain and a full-time recreation director," said Ray. "For a city the size of Beacon I don't see the need for a full-time recreation director. And he's made his secretary full-time even though he's a part-time mayor."

Ray would also like to re-examine two city projects that have been in the works for years: the construction of a parking garage at Churchill Street behind the former Matteawan train station, and the garage at Churchill Street behind the city projects that have been in the works for years: the construction of a parking garage.

"I pledge to serve only one term," he said. "I'm in my 60s now and I'd like to spend some time with my kids and my grandchildren. One term as mayor will lead me into my 70s, and I think by then I'll want to sit back and just enjoy life."

Central Hudson Warns of Utility Bill Payment Scams

Central Hudson is alerting customers of a bill payment scam targeting its customers.

Charles A. Freni, senior vice president of customer services for Central Hudson, said: "We are receiving multiple reports of customers being contacted by telephone by individuals claiming to be with or representing Central Hudson, and stating that the customer did not make a deposit for an opt-out program and/or meter change; the caller then directs them to pay their utility bill using cash or an express wire transfer." The perpetrators indicate that if payment is not made in this manner, utility services will be shut off. In this particular scam, the caller also provides a name and telephone number for a return call, always a toll-free number.

"Central Hudson would never request a bill payment in this way. Customers are also warned that thieves now access sophisticated equipment that allows them to forge caller identification (or "Caller ID") in order to present false names and telephone numbers. As a result, some customers may even see Central Hudson's name or telephone number displayed, when, in fact, the call is not originating here," said Freni. "If there is any uncertainty regarding any phone call, customers should hang up and call Central Hudson at 845-452-2100 for confirmation. We are here to help."

Other reported scams include calls to homeowners indicating that their account is past due and directing them to pay their utility bill through a pay-back money card; emails from impersonators posing as a utility company, requesting utility bill payment and personal information; and calls by perpetrators claiming to be with a national collection agency working on behalf of Central Hudson, attempting to obtain a payment over the phone by credit card.

"Central Hudson does not use email to obtain payments or personal information, and customers should be wary of any emails attempting to secure this information. Do not click on any links or reply to these emails, and if uncertain, call Central Hudson," he said.

Both homeowners and business owners should also be aware of thieves posing as utility employees attempting to collect payments for utility bills in person. "The impersonators may request immediate payment in cash, check or by credit card," said Freni. Central Hudson employees and authorized contractors drive marked vehicles and carry photo identification, and will always display it upon request.

Finally, phone numbers, street and email addresses associated with customer accounts are never shared by Central Hudson without permission. Customers receiving personal visits, calls or emails are warned not to provide or verify their utility account or other personal information such as credit card, Social Security or bank routing numbers. "If there is any doubt, customers may wish to note the caller ID information, license plate or email address and report the incident to their local police department," said Freni.
Local resident named Vermont police chief

On July 13, Nельsonville resident Brandon del Pozo was named the new police chief of Burlington, Vermont. The 40-year-old del Pozo is an 18-year veteran of the New York Police Department, where he served in numerous capacities including patrol officer, patrol supervisor, grand-larceny-auto team leader, crime analyst and policy analyst, internal affairs group commander, supervising intelligence officer and precinct commander. He left the department having risen to the rank of deputy inspector. In addition, he has served as a law instructor at the police academy, an intelligence officer in the Middle East and India and as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army National Guard. His wife, Sarah Carnevale, has been active in the Haldane community, including running as a candidate in the 2015 school board election. His then-5-year-old son Zane was featured in a kids’ triathlons.

The Paper: Where did you grow up?

Brandon del Pozo: Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

The Paper: How did you end up in Philpstown?

Brandon del Pozo: My first visit was a field trip to Breakneck in 1988 as a high school freshman. Even then I knew this was a very special place. I was only 14 but I always had a mind to move here. We got married at the Chalet in 2002, lived in Forge Gate, then moved to Nelsonville in 2004.

The Paper: Videography. There was a documentary that failed. As a law enforcement officer in the U.S. Army National Guard; have you ever been called up?

Brandon del Pozo: My unit was mobilized after Sept. 11 and stationed at the U.S. Military Academy. West Point was an open base at the time. In the heat of 9/11 there was a worry that the cadets were vulnerable.

The Paper: You’re also an officer in the U.S. Army National Guard. Have you ever been called up?

Brandon del Pozo: My unit was mobilized after Sept. 11 and stationed at the U.S. Military Academy. West Point was an open base at the time. In the heat of 9/11 there was a worry that the cadets were vulnerable.

The Paper: Burlington has a population of about 42,000, compared to more than eight million residents in NYC. Isn’t going to Burlington a bit like being sent down to the minors?

Brandon del Pozo: It’s a less diverse city and the police force is small. But it’s a city that takes the equality of all its residents very seriously. And to be the person responsible for public safety is always a major league job.

The Paper: What major law enforcement issues does Burlington face?

Brandon del Pozo: Opiates coming from New York City is one of the biggest problems. I’ve already seen tremendous collaboration between NYPD and Burlington PD to stem that. There’s also a flow of guns from Vermont to New York City.

The Paper: Burlington includes the University of Vermont. What challenges does that pose?

Brandon del Pozo: The university has its own police force. It’s a constant quality-of-life battle – students being students and residents sympathizing with that but ultimately wanting some peace and quiet. The fact that there had been several terrorist attacks, and cops died. There was a do-mestic violence incident that really made an impression on me. I teamed up with some creative friends to make a film about it. It was shot in the Bronx and is now in post-production. Depending how it looks you might see it – or you might not.

The Paper: Last but not least, what will you miss about Cold Spring and Nelsonville?

Brandon del Pozo: This is a village in every sense of the word. You really get to know your friends and neighbors in a place like this. I will really miss the community – the passion that people have about living here. But, we’re leaving some family behind; there will always be a reason to come back.

Brandon del Pozo begins his duties as Burlington’s new police chief on July 31, 2015.
Much sweet corn was roasted at last year's Firefly Feast.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Kids & Community
Beacon Flea Market
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. 6 Honry St, Beacon
845-202-0094  |  beaconfleasale.com

Insane Inflatable SK
9 a.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
See details under Saturday.

Bear Mountain Pow Wow
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Anthony Wayne Recreation Area
See details under Saturday.

Bear Mountain Pow Wow
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325  |  bearcarmyfarming.com

Kayak Tour
11:30 a.m. Waterfall
Hudson River Expeditions
See details under Saturday.

Cruise Tour of Bear Mountain
12:30 p.m. Beacon dock
800-979-3370  |  hudsonvalleywaterways.com

Childrens and Families: Field Sketching
1 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115  |  stormking.org

Wanderings and Wonderings with Amy Beecher
2 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115  |  stormking.org

Film & Theater
City of Angels
9:30 a.m.  |  5 p.m. Boscobel
1604 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638  |  boscobel.org

Vassar College
The Light Years
2 p.m. Powerhouse Theater
845-265-3638  |  boscobel.org

Drake’s Homecoming: The Last Footage (Documentary)
6 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St, Peekskill
914-739-0039  |  paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Arabian Nights With Q&A
7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Music
Blanca’s Groove
5 - 8 p.m. BearRunner Cafe
See details under Friday.

Saints of Swing
6 - 8 p.m. Bandstand
Main Street, Cold Spring
coldspringaresacommunity.org

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

Kids & Community
Open Garden
9 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 90, Garrison
845-265-3040  |  buttermilklibrary.org

Once Upon a River: The Story of the Sleep Clearwater
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040  |  buttermilklibrary.org

Health & Fitness
Yoga With a View
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1603 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638  |  boscobel.org

Sports
Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Tri-City
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 190, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094  |  hvrenegades.com

Film & Theater
An Iliad (Opening)
7:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-9575  |  hvrenegades.com

Meetings & Lectures
Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (Opens)
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
14 Mary’s Way, Garrison
845-424-4800  |  garrisoninstitute.org

Parking Committee
5 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-3611  |  coldspringny.gov

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Kids & Community
Open Garden
9 a.m. J.V. Forrestal School
129 Liberty St, Beacon
hudsonvalleywaterways.com

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Knitting Club
10 a.m. Everyone’s Hero (2003)
313 Main St, Beacon
845-831-1134  |  beahivebzzz.com

Enchanted Forest (ages 3–6)
10 a.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust
20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
845-424-3358, ext. 7  |  hhltrow.org

Family Summer Birds Program
10 a.m. Scoor! Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440, ext. 273  |  seenduction.org

STILL TOYS: Unmask Your Talents
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Monday.

Farm Store Open
3 – 6:30 p.m. Glywood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338  |  store.glywood.com

Desmond-Fish Library
4 p.m. Kids Craft House
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020  |  desmondfishlibrary.org

Music
Andrew Parkins & Chris Corsano
9 a.m. Quinn’s
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures
Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Putnam County Historic Courthouse
44 Glenville Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800  |  putnamcounyny.com

Digital Salon
7 p.m. Beahive Beacon
251 Main St, Beacon
845-265-1890  |  beahivebzzz.com

Ham Radio Club
7 p.m. East Fishkill Library
348 Route 376, Hopedale Junction
914-682-3744  |  ccoarc.org

Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-3611  |  coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Kids & Community
Open Garden
10 a.m. South Avenue School
60 South Ave, Beacon  |  hudsonvalleywaterways.com

Butterfield Library
10 a.m. Mad Science: Energy Workshop
6 p.m. Wayside: The Movie
See details under Monday.

Howland Public Library
10:30 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2–3)
See details under Tuesday.

Desmond-Fish Library
1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour
See details under Tuesday.

Homemade Pastas (Class)
4 p.m. Dempsey House
1592 Compond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3790  |  hphc.org/events

Authentic Mexican Tacos (Class)
6:30 p.m. Home spun at Home
259 Main St, Beacon
917-833-6807  |  homecookingny.com/beacon

Sports
H.V. Renegades vs. Tri-City
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

Art & Design
The 20th-Century Galleries (Talk)
4 p.m. Vassar Art Center
124 Raymond Ave, Poughkeepsie
845-437-5632  |  flac.vassar.edu

Film & Theater
Howland Public Library
11 a.m. Under the Tuscan Sun (2003)
1 p.m. Eat Pray Love (2010)
313 Main St, Beacon
845-831-1134  |  beaconlibrary.org

M.HVSZ: The Dred
7:30 p.m. Philippston Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-265-9575  |  hvrenegades.com

The Gift Hut
Made in the USA
Phone 845.297.3786
Gifts made for Americans by Americans
86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
www.philipstown.info

Just a gimm. . . .
The Towne Crier takes its food seriously.
— NY Times

HUFFST: The Dred
7:30 p.m. Philippston Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-265-9575  |  hvrenegades.com

“a gimm. . . .
The Towne Crier takes its food seriously.”
— NY Times

The Paper
July 31, 2015

Tree Hopper Toys is a tiny family-owned company outside of Chicago. Using sustainable, American hardwoods, our toys are 100% kid- and earth-friendly, safe, and most importantly, fun!
**The Calendar** (from page 9)

**The Arabian Nights**
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

**Meetings & Lectures**

Dutchess County Regional Chamber Meetup
5 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappinger Falls
845-454-1700 | dorcc.org. RSWP Required.

Planning Board
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3111 | coldspringny.gov

Town Board Pre-Meeting
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

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**THURSDAY, AUGUST 6**

**Kids & Community**

Open Garden
9 a.m. Glenham School
20 Chase Drive, Fishkill | HudsonValleySeed.org

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**Music**

**Open Garden**
9 a.m. Sargent School
20 Education Drive, Beacon
hudsonvalleyseed.org

Howland Public Library
10:45 a.m. Super Hero Story/Craft Time (ages 3-6)
1 p.m. Baby Singing Class (ages 0-6)
See details under Tuesday.

Purple Heart Appreciation Day
2 p.m. National Purple Heart Hall of Honor
374 Temple Hill Road, New Windsor
845-561-1765 | thepurpleheart.com

Farm Store Opens
3 - 6:30 p.m. GreenWood Farm
See details under Saturday.

Francesco Mastalia: Organic Farmers and Chefs of the Hudson Valley (Signing)
3 - 5:30 p.m. Cold Spring General Store
61 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5522 | coldspringgeneral.com

Grand Opening
4 - 7 p.m. Burkelman
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
845-809-4844 | shopburkelman.com

**Health & Fitness**

Navigating Healthcare Options
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666

**Paddle Yoga**
Noon. Foundry Dock Park, Cold Spring
845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com

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**Films & Theater**

A Winter's Tale (Teen Night)
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under July 31.

**Music**

Florida Georgia Line
7:30 p.m. Bethel Woods
See details under Saturday.

Grand Funk Railroad
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
845-265-7285 | nhf21.org
Rescheduled from Aug. 13

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**ONGOING**

Art & Design
Visit philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services
Visit philipstown.info/services

Meetings & Lectures
Support Groups
Visit philipstown.info/ng

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**First Friday Events in Cold Spring Aug. 7**

**Art gatherings and specials on Main Street**

Cold Spring First Friday in August includes many special events at participating merchants and galleries. Discount coupons to village restaurants such as Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill, Le Bouchon, Riverview and Silver Spoon are available at participating merchants.

This Aug. 7, the General Store will host a book signing of Organic Farmers and Chefs of the Hudson Valley by Francesco Mastalia from 3 to 5:30 p.m., while Gallery 66 NY opens its exhibits of Mastalia’s photos in Organic and Wilfredo Morello’s sculptures on display at Open Concept Gallery.

**Handmade hats and fascinators by Bink will be on display at Open Concept Gallery on Cold Spring’s First Friday in August. Photo courtesy of Open Concept Gallery.**

**in Farm Art,** with an opening reception 6 to 9 p.m.

Buster Levi Gallery opens with the recent sculpture and prints by Grace Knowlton, mixed media work by Barbara Smith Gioia and paintings by Maria Pia Marrella.

Open Concept Gallery opens its exhibit with a collection of handmade surrealistic hats and flower fascinators by British designer Bink. Zen will be showing large works of mixed media collage and painting on glass from 5 to 9 p.m.

Burkelman will be having its grand opening from 4 to 7 p.m., with many of their artists present.

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Common Ground Farm, located at the Stony Kill Environmental Education Center in Wappingers Falls, began 15 years ago as a community supported agriculture (CSA) program with a mission: to not just provide fresh local produce to those who were able to buy a CSA share, but to also fight for food justice, increase food access and provide education programs. But over time, it became clear that the limited amount of land the farm had access to — Common Ground currently farms on about 11 acres at Stony Kill — was being overworked in order to keep up with the growing demand for CSA shares.

"With the amount of land we had, and not having had lots of land to quickly expand to, we realized that the majority of the land had been focused on the CSA," said Giardullo. "And the food access, food justice and education programs were taking a backseat."

With that in mind, Common Ground Farm drastically changed their operations over the past few years in order to focus on their mission. They first reduced the amount of land being actively farmed by almost two-thirds, in order to let the remaining land go fallow so that the soil could recharge. And when CGF’s farmers at the time had the opportunity to create a new CSA called Obercreek nearby, CGF did away with their own CSA program entirely, with the exception of a summer U-pick program.

"The partnership that we formed with Obercreek was a great strategic alliance that helped to kick-start Obercreek’s CSA membership, create a great relationship between Obercreek and Common Ground Farm. And it allowed us to refocus all of our energy on growing food for the whole of the community," said Giardullo, "whether it be soup kitchens, food pantries or the farmers market."

In the future, Common Ground Farm plans to be able to grow food for even more of the community. They are currently finalizing a deal that would give them access to anywhere from 35 to 50 additional acres at another site. The expanded land holdings will give Common Ground Farm a chance to expand the scope of their mission as well — a challenge that the board at CGF is looking forward to.

"It's about building a community food system," said Giardullo. "How do we create better access for the whole community to eat the same food; to eat healthy, local food distributed to various areas of the community and not just one café or one grocery store or the farmers market, but just anywhere about where people get food?"

Tickets for the Firefly Feast cost $30 in advance, $40 the day of the event. Children under 12 get in for free. For tickets, visit commongroundfarm.org.
Lacrosse Club Donates to Teammates’ Family

Highlanders present funds to help Santos family

Following a successful spring season, the Highlanders Lacrosse Club — players, coaches, parents and friends — chose to make a gift to the family of their teammate Darrin Daniel and Mikayla Santos. The Santos’ lost their Cold Spring home to a fire in May. Coach Rick Mekel presented a check for $85,000 to Darrin Sr. and Melissa Santos at a ceremony held July 26 in the Parish Hall of the Our Lady of Loreto Church in Cold Spring. All the money was raised by the club, also known as P.L.A.Y. (Phillipstown Lacrosse Association for Youth), over the course of its 2015 season. The highlight of the season is the annual P.L.A.Y. DAY celebration, which features games with teams from neighboring towns and a barbecue for all the participants. “Darrin Etta had the idea, which was quickly embraced by the rest of us. It was a unanimous decision on the part of everyone associated with the Highlanders that the money we received should go to Darrin, Daniel and Mikayla’s family,” said Tom Donovan, who established the club 22 years ago.

The Highlanders Lacrosse Club, founded in 1993, teaches boys and girls in Phillipstown how to play and to enjoy the game of lacrosse while developing lifelong leadership skills and enduring friendships. For more information, contact Nat Prentice at 845-661-8837.

Doansburg Ensemble

Concerts Aug. 1 and 2

Flute, harp and oboe trio at St. Mary’s Saturday

The Doansburg Chamber Ensemble will continue its 2015 season with performances by its trio of flute, harp and oboe. Concerts will take place on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary-in-the-Highlands Episcopal Church, 1 Chestnut St. (at the intersection of Routes 9D and 301) in Cold Spring, and on Sunday, Aug. 2, at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2301 Route 6, just west of Brewster. The program will include Locatelli’s Trio Sonata, op. 2, no. 2, Marais’ La Folle, Quantz’ Trio Sonata in C minor and Castelnuovo-Teodosco’s Erodipe, op. 206, performed by Joy Plaisted on harp, Chris Thomas on flute and John Frisch on oboe. Smith is a 1981 graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, Pre-College Division, and holds a master’s degree in education. Plaisted has a master’s degree from the Juilliard School of Music and has performed at venues in the United States, Japan, China, Hong Kong, France, Switzerland and England. Frisch holds a master of music from the Yale School of Music and has played for many New York-area orchestras.

Tickets for the concert are available at the door at $10 for general admission and $9 for seniors and students. For further concert information, or to order tickets, call 845-228-4167 or visit the ensemble’s website at home.comcast.net/~doansburg.

Organic and Farm Art at Gallery 66 NY in August

Opening reception First Friday, Aug. 7

Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring will exhibit two artists who bring awareness to the farm community and sustainability in the Hudson Valley: Francesco Mastalica - Organic and Wilfredo Morel - Farm Art. The exhibition runs Aug. 1 to 7, with an artists’ reception from 6 to 9 p.m., and runs through Aug. 30.

Mastalica’s Organic features the dedicated farmers who are committed to growing and producing food using sustainable methods, and the chefs who echo New York belles and call Portuguese chef John Frisch on oboe. and chefs. Morel’s sculptures are created from farm equipment discarded after many years of use. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of farm Art will be donated to support farm worker health programs at Hudson River Health Care and the operation of local farms. Gallery 66 NY, at 66 Main St., is open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, call 845-899-5838 or visit gallery66ny.com.

Red Circle PhotoArts

Exhibit Opens Aug. 6

Local photographers’ work in Hastings-on-Hudson

The opening reception of the new publication, Photography From the Circle by Red Circle PhotoArts will be held at the Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. in Hastings-on-Hudson, on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. The show will run through Aug. 30.

Sixteen members of the group will be showing their work, including Philipstown photographers Mike Biederman, Cali Goveic and Jane Soodalter. Wine, cheese, etc. will be served. Everyone is invited and admission is free.

For more information, visit redcircle-photo.com or upstreamgallery.com.

Call for Entries to PHOTocentric 2015

Garrison Art Center holds juried photography exhibition

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center — in Hudson, in Garrison, in Hastings-on-Hudson, and in Upstate — is calling for entries to PHOTocentric 2015, an international juried photography exhibition. The show will run Dec. 5, 2015, through Jan. 10, 2016, and will travel to as many as 15 venues in the U.S. and Europe. A cash award will be given in each of three categories (People, Nature and Open), plus a Best in Show award. The entry deadline (with discount entry fee) is Aug. 14 at 5 p.m. The final entry deadline is Sept. 4. Enter and see all submission guidelines at garrisonartcenter.org.

The juror for 2015 is Julie Saul. She has owned and directed Julie Saul Gallery since 1996. The gallery specializes in contemporary photography and works on paper. She received a master’s degree from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, in 1983 and has worked as an independent curator, taught and lectured at a variety of museums and schools including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Yale School of Art. She has been a curator, lecturer and professional in all photographic mediums. Saul has been a member of the American Society of Magazine Photographers since 1991.

For more information, visit phootocentric2015.com or call the gallery at 914-763-3480.

Saints of Swing Play Summer Sunday Concert

Free concert at Cold Spring’s bandstand Aug. 2

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce’s Summer Sunset Music Series continues on Sunday, Aug. 2, featuring the Saints of Swing. The Sunday concerts at the Village of Cold Spring’s Riverfront Bandstand are free of charge and run from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Saints of Swing specialize in eclectic and electric selections of swing classics, hot and cool jazz — from spicy New Orleans Dixieland style (complete with a dancing tuba player) to elegant New York City swing, Latin, R&B and ballroom favorites.

For information about the Sum- mer Sunset Music Series, go to excelsiorcoldspringny.com or the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce’s Facebook page.
Seeking $500 Million Ideas for Hudson Valley
Web portal gathers ideas for upstate revitalization initiative

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is involved in compiling the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council’s plan to revitalize the region. Ideas are sought in the categories of regional destination tourism, including agriculture and food and beverage; investing in city, town and village centers; and high-tech/high-salary job creation.

It’s all part of the competition to win $500 million as part of the state of New York’s Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) to help boost various areas of the state through job creation and other income-generating activities. Big ideas to help win big funding are sought.

Find out more and submit ideas at hvreitalize.com. Pattern for Progress is a not-for-profit policy and planning organization that promotes regional, balanced and sustainable solutions to enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. Founded in 1965 by business, academic and civic leaders and based in Newburgh, Pattern works within the nine-county area that includes Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

Beacon
Double Feature at the Howland Public Library

Escape the summer heat with two travel-themed films showing at the Howland Public Library on Wednesday, Aug. 5. Starting at 11 a.m. will be Under the Tuscan Sun, starring Diane Lane. Starting at 1 p.m. will be Eat Pray Love, starring Julia Roberts. Both films are rated PG-13. Light refreshments will be served.

This event is free and no registration is required. This is an Escape the Ordinary 2015 Adult Summer Reading Program special event. The Howland Public Library is at 313 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, contact Alison Herro, adult services librarian, at 845-831-1134. To see all upcoming events at the Howland Public Library, go to beaconlibrary.org and click on “Calendar.”

Images of Rock ‘n’ Roll at the Howland Center
Opening reception on Aug. 1

Avalon Images of Rock ‘n’ Roll will be shown at the Howland Cultural Center from Saturday, Aug. 1, through Aug. 30. A collection of paintings, photographs and posters depicting images of entertainers and musicians related to folk, blues, and rock ‘n’ roll from the Avalon Archives Museum of Roots, Rock ‘n’ Roll forms the scope of this exhibition.

Artists exhibiting paintings are Michael DeBois, Norm Bowen, Gert Mathiesen and Richard Outlaw. Photographers in the show are Nick Busco, John Cohen, Susan Fino, Lisa Law, Frank Lombardo, Bibian Foster Farm in Brewster, recently host-

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The Saints of Swing
Poster by Michael DeBois
Photo courtesy of Howland Cultural Center

World Jazz Trio at Chapel Restoration
Aug. 8 concert includes local musicians

The Chapel Restoration will resound with jazz and new music as the World Jazz Trio performs on Saturday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m.

“We’re delighted to bring world culture and original compositions to this great venue,” said leader, violinist and violist Gwen Laster. Collaborators are Sumi Tonooka on piano and percussionist Arturo Stable.

Laster, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, is a Hudson Valley resident by way of Detroit. She has performed with such well-known acts as Alicia Keys and Nona Hendryx. Her third recording, Gameboard, will be released in November 2015.

Tonooka, formerly based in Beacon and now in Seattle, recently enjoyed a Music Alive: New Partnerships residency as a composer with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. She also received the 2015 Artist Trust award.

Cuban percussionist Stable has performed and recorded with such greats as Esperanza Spalding, Paquito D’Rivera and David Sanchez the Caribbean Jazz Project and the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

The suggested donation is $15. The Chapel Restoration is located directly on the Hudson River at 45 Market St., in Cold Spring, across from the Metro-North train station, where weekend parking is free. For more information, visit chapelrestoration.org.

Fino, Lisa Law, Frank Lombardo, Bibiana H. Matheis, James Rice, Rob Robinson, Davide Spindel and Rita Weigand.

An opening reception for the public to meet the artists will take place Saturday, Aug. 1, from 3 to 5 p.m. A special feature of the exhibition are two art posters created by DeBois, a Woodstock resident, commemorating the 50th and final concert of the Grateful Dead.

Ned Moran, collector, curator and developer of the Avalon Archives, states that the museum, located at the Tilley Foster Farm in Brewster, recently host-

Opening reception on Aug. 1

Re-enactment Day Aug. 29 at Constitution Island
Association commemorates island’s role in war

On Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Constitution Island Association will honor Constitution Island’s role in the Civil War and the American Revolution in a Re-enactment Day.

Watch as soldiers fire muskets, rifles and cannons. See what camp life was like: there will be inspections, drills and changing of the guard. Free guided tours will be available, or pack a picnic lunch.

Kruk will tell tales. Hot dogs and drinks will provide music. The West Point Band’s Hellcats demonstrate their drill skills. Take a guided tour of Black Knights Drill Team’s armory and see historic military equipment.

It’s all part of the competition to win $500 million as part of the state of New York’s Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) to help boost various areas of the state through job creation and other income-generating activities. Big ideas to help win big funding are sought. Find out more and submit ideas at hvreitalize.com. Pattern for Progress is a not-for-profit policy and planning organization that promotes regional, balanced and sustainable solutions to enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. Founded in 1965 by business, academic and civic leaders, and based in Newburgh, Pattern works within the nine-county area that includes Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

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Appreciating the Bard Through Other Writers’ Eyes (from page 7)

work went on to garner a rave critical reception in New York and will be mounted in a commercial off-Broadway production this year, according to McCallum. Enos’s GNT is a freewheeling adaption of 19th-century Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen’s Peer Gynt, which McCallum is directing himself. “Enos has a distinct sensibility; he has a very precise, playful way with language that reminds me of Shakespeare. He takes on Ibsen with an odd, refreshing, irreverent way with language that reminds me of Shakespeare. What I noticed is a distinct sensibility; he has a very precise, playful way with language that reminds me of Shakespeare.”

Gynt opened a few weeks ago at the Minetta Lane Theatre, a commercial off-Broadway venue in Greenwich Village. The production was directed by J. E. S. Johnson, who has previously directed several productions of Shakespeare’s plays in New York and across the country. Johnson said he was excited to bring Gynt to the Minetta Lane Theatre because it is a venue known for its dedication to new and experimental work. He said he was also excited because the play itself is a unique and innovative adaptation of Ibsen’s original work.

Value of readings

McCallum explained that readings involve an intense period of about 20 hours of rehearsal the night before and then the day of the performance. For the theatergoer, it is an opportunity to watch actors begin to throw themselves into a role and perhaps witness moments of inspiration, as the actor inhabits the role. It’s an exciting way to see actors doing something different.”

In an email exchange, Hamill elaborated on what a reading, and in her case especially with HVSF, can do. “As much as you work to craft something — and everyone works so hard: the actors, the crew, the playwright, the director — you never know how it will be received by an audience until you get it up on its feet. That’s an absolutely unknowable alchemy until it happens less than a mile from the Depot Theatre on Garrison’s Landing so it’s hyper-local,” said McCallum. Shakespeare’s works, of course, have many generals and many betrayals.

Appreciating the Bard Through Other Writers’ Eyes (from page 7)

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Roots and Shoots: What to Do in the Garden Now

By Pamela Doan

After summer-blooming perennials have finished their cycle, they can be divided and moved. Mow the lawn with the blades set at 3 inches or higher when the conditions are hot and dry. It helps the lawn recover. Check mulch to make sure it hasn't decomposed. Add new mulch so that plants can hold in water more efficiently on hot days. Be vigilant for signs of pathogen infections on plants, especially tomatoes. Late blight has been reported in 11 counties in New York and also in New Jersey and Connecticut. Remove any diseased material and do not compost it. Now is a good time to dry herbs for winter use. Plant fall vegetables like lettuce, spinach, carrots, kale and many others that will tolerate cooler temperatures.

Start looking around for discounted prices on perennials, trees and shrubs at plant nurseries and landscape centers. The longer you wait, the deeper the discount, but there will be less of a selection. Start planning for next year. Take photos of the garden at its summer peak and consider any changes you want to make.

Check your pool filter for forest-destroying insects. It’s the season for Asian long-horned beetles to emerge in maturity, and the Department of Environmental Conservation is seeking assistance in spotting them. Through Aug. 30, the DEC would like people to take photos of beetles they think are ALBs and to email them. Through Aug. 30, the DEC would like people to take photos of beetles they think are ALBs and to email them at dcemails@dec.ny.gov.

In previous years, the DEC has successfully identified potential infestations that needed to be controlled. Jessica Cancelliere, research scientist in the Division of Lands and Forests of the DEC, said: “To date, the survey has resulted in the discovery of one new infestation on Long Island in 2013, where 600 infested trees were found. That was throughout the Babylon Township in Suffolk County.”

Asian long-horned beetles have been found in Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York and eradicated in many instances. It is native to China, Japan and Korea and was first discovered in New York almost 20 years ago. The larvae feed on chestnut and three types of maple trees—Norway, silver and sugar. The larvae’s feeding basically girdles the tree, a process that cuts off the tree’s ability to get sustenance by cutting through the xylem and phloem. The tree weakens, loses branches and dies.

Tens of thousands of trees have been cut down in an effort to control the spread of the beetle and to eradicate it. Cancelliere said, “Long Island and New York City are big hot spots, as well as the lower Hudson Valley (because of its proximity). There is a huge infestation in Worcester, Massachusetts, that also poses a threat to us.” The DEC is primarily concerned that it could move into the Catskills or Adirondack mountains, where it would decimate hardwood forests. The United States Department of Agriculture is currently trying to eradicate it from the infestation found in 2013.

Cancelliere said that they receive about 300 responses every year, and one call already this summer has her concerned about a possible infestation in another area of Long Island.

The Asian long-horned beetle looks similar to the native white-spotted Sawyer beetle. They are roughly the same size, about 2 inches long, and both have long antennae. Although they are both black, the Asian beetle is shiny and smooth, while the native beetle is bronze-black and has a single white dot. The DEC wants people to bag and freeze any suspected specimens for positive identification. Don’t let it get away.

The beetles arrive when goods are shipped to the U.S. from overseas; they are effective hitchhikers. Even though ports have protocols, they are small bugs, and some escape detection. Cancelliere said, “As we have learned from other forest pests such as the emerald ash borer, infestations can pop up anywhere, anytime, because people move firewood all over the place.”

The DEC regulations state that firewood shouldn’t be moved more than 50 miles from its source, and there are towns in restricted zones throughout the state, including Peekskill, where firewood regulations are tighter because of infestations of the emerald ash borer. Whether you’re a pool owner or just a tree lover, be the “eyes in the forest” and help stop the spread of this dangerous pest. For more information, check the DEC’s website and the USDA’s site, which also has materials for educators to use with the children.

Philipstown 4-H Clubs at Putnam County Fair

Two groups present for first time in a decade

For the first time in a decade, two Philipstown 4-H clubs participated in the Putnam County Fair over the weekend of July 24–26 at Veteran’s Memorial Park in Carmel. The younger group, called the Adventure Kids Club, showed two baby goats they have been working with from Lanza Farm in Garrison. The older kids’ group, called STEM 0516 Club, presented their science research projects at the fair.

To see video of the kids’ participation, visit Philipstown.info.

To learn how to join either of these clubs, contact 4H leaders Sandy McKelvey and Valerie Shafer at sandy@odara.com or val.shafer@gmail.com.

At right and below, members of the Adventure Kids Club at the Putnam County Fair. Photos provided.
Cold Spring Fire Company Academy

By William Benjamin

“Attention!” called Danny Valentine, and all 55 junior firefighters stood tall with their shirts still damp with sweat. During the week of July 27, the Junior Firefighter Academy called attention to what it means to be a firefighter.

“We treat them as they would if they were in a career fire academy,” said Valentine, academy director and Cold Spring Fire Company chief. “What they get is a uniform and ID tag, and they learn the importance of teamwork, respect, responsibility, and they get into formation.”

It’s not all running into burning buildings. The academy, now in its 13th year, starts every morning at 9 a.m. with physical training, hence the sweaty shirts. They march in lines, chant slogans and do push-ups. Afterward, they listen to lectures, study procedures, watch demonstrations and practice techniques.

The program is open to fourth- through eighth-graders and put on by the Cold Spring Fire Company and the Philipstown Recreation Department. Donations from the community allow for the campers to attend free of cost.

“It teaches me some very important skills, like fire prevention and how to use a fire extinguisher,” said one camper. The academy is essentially an extension of the fire prevention program that local fire departments teach at schools around Philipstown. They expand on the basics of how to act during a fire: “stop, drop and roll,” staying low under smoke, feeling a door before entering.

The weeklong academy/summer camp is pumped full of action. The junior firefighters crawl through a smoke simulation trailer, try on equipment, breathe life into CPR dummies and spray fire extinguishers. A bomb squad, medical helicopter, ladder truck, sheriff’s boat and an arson dog named Daisy all give demonstrations. By the end of the week, most campers earn CPR and first aid certificates. Yet, for Valentine, the ubiquitous values learned at the academy are as valuable as the fire-specific skills.

“They have to take care of each other, and the only way to make it through the camp is to work together,” said Valentine. The 55 campers are split into six platoons, each with a platoon leader, squad leader and medic, who take on additional responsibilities and practice being leaders. Each platoon works as a team and shares in the group’s successes and negligence. They are asked to respond with “Yes, Sir” or “No, Sir” and must perform push-ups if they neglect to do so. Such behavior has led to successful careers in and out of the fire service.

According to Valentine, roughly 30 Junior Firefighter Academy graduates have gone on to join departments in North Highlands, Cold Spring or Garrison. Many of the instructors at the current academy once attended it over the past 13 years.

When asked if they might become firefighters one day, a group of campers holding a fire hose responded positively. One even said, “Yes, Sir.”